

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 DRC-01 /127 W

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R 112118Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9810

INFO USCINCSO

AMCONSUL CALI UNN

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 8456

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:

SUBJ: ANAPO CONGRESS PROCLAIMS CANDIDACY OF MARIA EUGENIA ROJAS
DE MORENO

1. A NATIONAL CONGRESS OF ANAPO CONVENED AT THE CAPITOL IN BOGOTA ON OCT 11 TO PROCLAIM THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY OF MARIA EUGENIA ROJAS DE MORENO, DAUGHTER OF GENERAL GUSTAVO ROJAS PINILLA. THE CONGRESS WAS SPLIT INTO TWO PHASES: A DELEGATES-ONLY SESSION IN THE CAPITOL ON OCT 11 AND A PUBLIC RALLY AT THE NEW COVERED COLOSSEUM ON OCT 12.

2. MARIA EUGENIA RECEIVED THE BLESSING OF HER FATHER LAST MONTH AND HAS BEEN CAMPAIGNING ACTIVELY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY SINCE THAT TIME. HER OFFICIAL NOMINATION BY THE PARTY WAS A PRO-FORMA EXERCISE THAT WENT AS EXPECTED, ALTHOUGH A NUMBER OF TOP ANAPO CONSERVATIVE LEADERS REFUSED TO ATTEND THE CONGRESS BECAUSE OF THE RISE TO PREEMINENCE IN RECENT WEEKS OF LEFTIST ELEMENTS IN THE PARTY.

3. A NUMBER OF CONSERVATIVE LEADERS STILL REMAIN ACTIVE IN ANAPO, BUT A CRISIS IS APPROACHING; SOME DISGRUNTLED CONSERVATIVE ANAPO CONGRESSMEN HAVE DISASSOCIATED THEMSELVES FROM THE

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PARTY LEADERSHIP AND THREATEN TO RETURN TO THE CONSERVATIVE

PARTY IF THE LEFTISTS CONTINUE UNDERMINE ANAPO STRATEGY AND

TO SHAPE ITS RHETORIC.

4. MARIA EUGENIA'S RALLIES IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY HAVE BEEN MODERATELY SUCCESSFUL, BUT SHE HERSELF IS SKEPTICAL THAT THE PARTY HAS REGAINED MUCH STRENGTH. (A STILL UNPUBLISHED MAGAZINE POLL SHOWS THAT AT THIS TIME ONLY ABOUT FIVE PER CENT OF THE RESPONDENTS, LARGELY URBAN MIDDLE CLASS, FAVOR MARIA EUGENIA.) THE ANAPO LEADERSHIP HAS TURNED TO THE LEFT WING OF THE PARTY IN THE HOPE OF ATTRACTING LARGE MASSES OF LOWER CLASS URBAN VOTERS WHO HAVE BEEN HARD HIT BY INFLATION, UNEMPLOYMENT AND LACK OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES. THIS STRATEGY HAS THE DISADVANTAGE OF ALIEN-ATING CONSERVATIVE ANAPISTAS WHO TODAY CONSTITUTE THE BACKBONE OF THE PARTY; LIBERAL ANAPISTAS FLOCKED BACK TO THE LIBERAL BANNER WHEN ALFONSO LOPEZ ACTIVELY REENTERED POLITICS IN 1972.
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